

CLIMATE-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY: A POLICY ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN'S 2022 FLOOD CRISIS

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Abstract:

The Pakistan 2022 flood caused homelessness to over eight million people exposing the vulnerability of the disaster management systems to weaknesses and multidimensional susceptibility of the communities to the disasters. This paper critically evaluates policy response by Pakistan to the Human security Framework, including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political, and has climate justice prism.

The analysis, with the assistance of credible sources, such as the government reports, UN and NGO analysis, and the literature reviewed by scholars, demonstrates that even short-term interventions, such as cash transfers, emergency food supplies, and temporary shelters alleviated urgent misery, but there was very little success in long-term recovery, rights protection, and creation of resilience. It involved disconnected parts, fragmented implementation and segregation of the most vulnerable individuals particularly women, children and individuals with disabilities.

The floods of the year 2010 provide some comparative answers on whether the policy failures were recurrent. This paper presents human security as a concept that is to be analyzed in a methodical manner in the policy and concerned with the location of the boundary between limitations of human capacity and gaps in international responsibility. The policy recommendations involve the legal framework systems of displaced persons, planning of human security, resilient infrastructure concerning climate, gender-focused interventions and practical advocacy of foreseeable and accessible loss-and damage financing.

Keywords

Pakistan 2022 disaster displacement by floods; human security; mobility due to climate changes; policy and governance; concern in justice; managing the disaster; the affected communities; long term losses.

Introduction:

In the month of August 2022, Pakistan experienced a disaster of epic proportions: the floodwaters engulfed one-third of the country, and the once-prosperous towns, villages, and fields became huge lakes. The destruction impacted over 33 million people and more than 8 million displaced and 1,739 people lost their lives, unfortunately, including hundreds of children and women (NDMA, 2022; UN OCHA, 2022). To a nation who has never known poverty, where the rain will feed the crops and the farmers will survive, climate change has deprived them of a blessing and made it a nightmare- not just the material wealth it will drain but also the dreams, shelter and hope of the people. After all, with only 0.3% share in global greenhouse gas emissions, still Pakistan suffered

through one of the largest climate disasters in the world, thus revealing the global inequities regarding climate vulnerability and justice in a very striking and heartbreaking way (World Bank, 2022; Nanditha et al., 2023).

The extent of ruin in 2022 went beyond the already terrible floods of 2010 and showed very clearly the continuous vulnerability of the country. This was not a mere natural disaster, but a human security crisis that struck most in the food, shelter, health and social interactions fronts. Whole communities were subjected to loss of income, suffering from the destruction of their houses, the breaking up of their social life, and the beginning of a very long period of economic downturn (Humanitarian outcomes, 2022; UNDP, 2023). The occurrence of such disasters with ever-increasing frequency--like the floods of 2025 with the death toll of more than 300--brings the inadequacies of the disaster management systems in Pakistan to the fore while the existence of authority like NDMA and PDMA to facilitate the process of relief is still there (UNHCR, 2022; WHO, 2022).

Policies that are in place, although they are aimed at rendering emergency aid, have been mostly reactive and uncoordinated, giving temporary relief instead of securing perpetual human security. Internally displaced people (IDPs) are experiencing a tremendous number of insecurities such as economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political. The women, children, old

people and those with disabilities are the most affected. Human cost involved is considerable and extends beyond numbers to incorporate among others, psychological trauma, broken education and loss of dignity.

Research Gap

The study sits well against a significant knowledge gap: to what degree did the policy response by Pakistan in the 2022 floods in safeguarding the multidimensional human security of the displaced individuals?

Research Questions

This study not only highlights the responsive nature of the government and international policies but also systematically assesses them through the Human Security Framework. The major objective of this research is: In what way did the policies of Pakistan in dealing with the human security aspects of the internal displacement of people due to climate change during the 2022 flood crisis?

The sub-questions that come along explore the policy that was implemented or left unimplemented, the human security aspects that were prioritized or omitted, the coordination gap that was created between the different parties, and what has changed since the floods of 2010.

The research is significant in three ways. It is, however, the first systematic implementation of the Human Security Framework as applied to the floods in Pakistan in 2022, thereby connecting the research on disasters, policy studies, and scholarly climate justice research (UN OCHA, 2022).

It does not only provide figures for climatically displaced people but also shows their multidimensional nature, as it takes into consideration social, political, and environmental insecurities.

From a policy standpoint, the results present practical intervention measures for disaster preparedness and response improvement, especially for the countries vulnerable to climate change that will experience similar displacement crises, like Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, and small island developing nations (World Bank, 2022; UNDP, 2023). The timing is another critical aspect:

as the global climate change aggravates and the dialogues on the implementation of Loss and Damage Funds are still ongoing at COP 27, there is need to have frameworks which are not only rights-based and evidence-grounded but also providing immediate relief and guaranteeing human safety in a sustainable manner (UNFCCC, 2022).

Research objectives

The purposes of the investigation are indicated by four objectives. The former is to analyze the policy responses of Pakistan to the displacement caused by the 2022 flood by the use of the Human Security

Framework. The second is to scrutinize the approach or lack thereof of the government and international policies with respect to the seven aspects of human security. The third is to point out the crucial areas where disparity exists between management and policy execution regarding the displaced people. The last one is to suggest based on evidence, measures for disaster preparedness and protection of human security in the future that are more effective.

The present article is organized as follows: the third section is devoted to the methodological approach, which includes qualitative policy analysis and case study techniques. The fourth section offers an overview of the 2022 floods, pointing out meteorological, geographical and human impacts. The fifth section also surveys the policy measures in terms of Human Security Framework, evaluating whether they are adequate, inclusive or have weaknesses. The sixth section raises the wider implications for instance climate justice issues, the experience of 2010, and comparative insights for other countries at high risk due to climate change. The last part of Section 7 presents recommendations that are based on evidence and that one can point to as the way to improve human security outcomes in future displacement events that were caused by climate change.

This study has shown through the explicit linking of climate change, policy reaction and human security that, among other things, the protection of displaced populations requires no less than a comprehensive approach to managing natural disasters. These strategies can be taught as rights-based and at the same time able to encompass different societal layers and as well being grounded in climate justice. The 2022 floods have provided sufficient evidence to show that living is not sufficing but the comprehensive human security that encompasses dignity, livelihood, health, community cohesion and political voice should be the principle behind all the disaster response and recovery efforts.

Literature review and Theoretical Framework:

Displacement Caused by Climate: Conceptual foundations

Climate-based displacement has become a major issue of concern in the world today with environmental degradation and adverse weather conditions displacing more and more people. Internal displacement is the unwanted movement of individuals inside the members of their nation without crossing an international border caused by war, natural calamities, or the alteration of the environment (IDMC, 2023; UNHCR, 2022). This is the difference between the internally displaced persons (IDP), who do not cross the international borders and are safeguarded by the 1951 Convention on refugees, and migrants, the movement of which is often voluntary and driven by economic or social reasons (Castles, de Haas, and Miller, 2014; Warner et al., 2009).

Climate-induced displacement is also coming to be viewed as a unique category of displacement research due to its simultaneous causes and effects both of sudden-onset disasters, like floods, cyclones, and heatwaves, and slow-onset processes, like sea-level rise, desertification, and

salinization (Barnett and Adger, 2007; Gemenne, 2011). Disasters of sudden nature are likely to result in large-scale and rapid displacement and slow-onset environmental changes, which undermine livelihood and drive communities to migration or displacement in the long-term (Black et al., 2011). The scholars point out that environmental factors do not often lead to climate displacement; rather, it is determined by the presence of social inequalities, poor governance, or adaptive capacity (Adger et al., 2014; McLeman, 2018).

Across the world, the greatest number of new internal displacements every year are related to the effects of climate disasters. As the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) notes, weather induced disasters including floods and storms have always resettled millions of people each year with developing countries being disproportionately impacted because of the lack of infrastructure and insufficient institutional capacity (IDMC, 2023). South Asia has become one of the most insecure areas, as it has a high population density, reliance on climate-dependent livelihoods, and it is affected by climate variability and glacial melting (Kumar et al., 2021; Asian Development Bank, 2022).

Pakistan is one of the more acute examples of a climate vulnerable situation. They are highly prone to climate shocks due to its geographical location, agricultural dependence, high rate of urbanization, and inequalities in social-economic status (Mustafa, 2005; Akhtar and Khan, 2012). Frequent flooding, heatwaves, and droughts have strengthened the patterns of displacement, exposing the interaction of the effects of environmental stress with poverty, the ineffective governance and insufficient disaster preparedness (Khan et al., 2021). In turn, the displacement that would occur in Pakistan due to climate should be seen not only as an environmental experience, but a highly socio-political process that is influenced by structural vulnerabilities and policy options.

Notably, the current international legal frameworks are still insufficient in order to deal with climate induced displacement. There is lack of legal status of the term climate refugee internationally, which means that displaced populations have no effective protection mechanisms (Gemenne, Zickgraf, and Ionesco, 2016; McAdam, 2012). This legal loophole is especially problematic to other nations such as Pakistan where climate-related catastrophes cause the mass internal displacement that countries cannot cope with. Subsequently, researchers contend that analytical frameworks should shift beyond the environmental determinism and reflect the multidimensional effects of displacement on the wellbeing of humans (Adger et al., 2014).

Human Security Framework: Theoretical Foundation:

History of Human Security Concept: Human security is a notion that came into the limelight of security studies when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report was released in the year 1994. This paradigm put a question on the traditional state-based concept of security that had a stronger emphasis on territorial integrity and military threats but had a people centered approach based on daily vulnerabilities of people (UNDP, 1994). The concept of human security is based on the ideas of freedom without fear and without want, emphasizing both safety against violence and provision of basic needs that people need to live a dignified life (UNDP, 1994; Commission on Human Security, 2003).

Researchers believe that traditional security systems cannot be used to tackle the non-traditional security concerns like climate change, pandemic, and displacement, which have direct impacts on human lives, but not state sovereignty (Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy, 2007; Paris, 2001). The human security policy enlarges the security agenda by considering economic deprivation, health crises

and environmental degradation as appropriate security issues. This change in theory is especially applicable to the analysis of climate-induced displacement, in which threats are cross-dimensional and interrelated.

Seven dimensions of human security: According to UNDP (1994), human security has seven dimensions which are interrelated and all of them are seriously influenced in the situations of displacement.

Economic security can be defined as guaranteed income and work to survive and have a dignified existence (UNDP, 1994). When people are displaced, a breakage in livelihoods tends to occur as the affected people are deprived of land, property, and income. Farmers and informal urban workers in Pakistan, who were devastated by floods, faced a high level of economic insecurity because agricultural produce, animals, and places of work were destroyed (World Bank, 2022).

Food security refers to their physical and economic availability of adequate, secure, and nutritious food (FAO, 2008). Displacement caused by climate impacts faces food security by destroying crops and disrupting supply chains and also by increasing food prices. The floods of 2022 led to a massive loss of agricultural products in Pakistan and worsened the food crisis within displaced communities (FAO & WFP, 2022).

Health security can be defined as a safeguard against illnesses and the availability of simple healthcare services (UNDP, 1994). Water-borne and vector-borne diseases tend to increase in displacement camps, flood-impacted areas because of the contaminated water and insufficient medical services. There were reports of more cases of malaria, dengue, and diarrheal diseases and especially in women and children (WHO EMRO, 2022; Raza et al., 2023).

Environmental security is concerned with environmental degradation and hazardous coexistence (UNDP, 1994). Flooding causes contaminated water supply, breakdown of sanitation, and permanent damage to the ecosystem, which have dangerous living conditions due to displacement (UNEP, 2022).

Personal security concerns are primarily focused on protection against physical violence and putting an individual's safety in jeopardy (Commission on Human Security, 2003). One of the main consequences of displacement is the increased likelihood of women suffering from domestic violence, sexual and other types of abuse and insecurity in places like overcrowded shelters and camps (Human Rights Watch, 2022; Sphere Association, 2018).

Community security is closely related to the issue of maintaining social networks, cultural identity, and community cohesion (UNDP, 1994). The process of forced displacement has a disruptive effect on family structures and community ties, thus weakening the traditional support systems that are so important for the resilience and recovery of the displaced population (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

Political security means the protection of basic human rights and the right to participate in decision making processes (UNDP, 1994). People who have been displaced usually do not have a voice in matters concerning the planning of their recovery and formulation of policies thus limiting their power to impact decisions that directly affect their lives (IDMC, 2022).

Displacement analysis for human security: The human security approach is the best one for analyzing cases of displacement caused by climate change because it acknowledges the complex and interconnected nature of the impacts arising from displacement. It is a big difference from the sector based methods that are designed to deal with particular issues like shelter or food, as human security insists on the aspects of dignity, rights and long-term wellbeing (Commission on Human

Security, 2003). It is the human security approach which contributes to the full assessment of the policy responses, as here the question is not only of bringing the short-term relief to the displaced but also of meeting their needs in the long run.

Climate Justice Perspective

Climate justice perspective draws attention to the fact that there is a disproportionate distribution of both responsibility for climate change and the impacts of climate change-based vulnerability. Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is less than 0.3 percent, but it endures climate-related disasters that are disproportionately severe (World Bank, 2022; Waqas, 2022). Such scholars mark this disparity as a kind of structural injustice, where the least responsible countries suffer in terms of the most devastating human costs due to climate change (Roberts & Parks, 2007).

The loss and damage notion has been increasingly talked about in the context of climate justice, and its compensation requirement has thus far gone to the extent of considering the measures not just taken in case of the disasters but also the ones in advance and during (Mechler et al., 2019). by creating the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27, the UN has taken a symbolic step toward tackling climate-induced harm, even though the challenges encountered in making it operational cover a rather significant area (UNFCCC, 2022). Climate justice, for countries such as Pakistan, puts emphasis on the requirement of having effective domestic policies that allow for the safeguarding of displaced groups when international assistance is either too slow or not enough.

Policy Analysis Framework

The research applies a human security-based policy analysis strategy in order to assess the response of Pakistan to climate change-induced displacement. The policies are evaluated against a set of six criteria: comprehensiveness, timeliness, coordination, inclusivity, sustainability, and a rights-based approach (UNDP, 1994; Sphere Association, 2018). This analysis will be conducted on the basis of review of documents such as government reports Post-Disaster Needs Assessments, UN OCHA updates and humanitarian response plans. This analysis is actually, the observation of what the government and other organizations claimed to do, and how much they did it by comparing what they were going to do, with what they actually did it.

The literature has already established the technical and environmental aspects of the climate vulnerability of Pakistan to the level of flood modeling, damage assessment, and impact on the sector in terms of agriculture and health (Mustafa, 2005; Khan et al., 2021).

Nevertheless, one can still see the absence of methodical investigations using the human security framework to review the policies made in response to displacements caused by climate changes. In addition, few studies link climate justice view with policy assessment. This research covers all these voids by presenting the very first extensive human security-based policy critique of Pakistan's internal migration caused by the floods in the year 2022.

Methodology:

Through the application of a qualitative policy analysis approach, this research paper brings to light the deficiencies in the response of Pakistan towards the 2022 flood-induced displacement. Considering the various dimensions human security covers and the intricate relationship between government actions, international support, and local conditions, the qualitative approach provides the opportunity to explore deeply the effectiveness of the policy, the gaps in implementation and the limitations imposed by the system (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). To be more specific, the study

takes on a case study design, with the 2022 floods being the main incident of large-scale climate-induced internal displacement and at the same time, it draws comparisons with the 2010 floods.

The data for this particular research came from several different sources so that the coverage would be comprehensive and the triangulation would be correct. Government reports and policy documents were the primary sources, and they comprised of NDMA situation reports, announcements by the Ministry of Climate Change, province-level disaster management plans, and government budgets on the flood relief and rehabilitation (NDMA, 2022; Ministry of Climate Change, 2022). The data from these sources were used to prepare the official records of the interventions, the funding allocations, and the programmatic priorities.

The secondary sources were the reports by international organizations such as UN OCHA Humanitarian Response Plans, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA), alongside displacement statistics provided by UNHCR and IOM (World Bank, 2022; UN OCHA, 2022; UNHCR, 2022). Besides that, NGO and civil society reports, particularly assessments from humanitarian organizations present on the ground, provided valuable information regarding the actual implementation and the challenges at local level (Humanitarian outcomes, 2022).

Theoretical foundations derived from academic publications about the negative effects of floods, disaster management, and their related climate displacement studies along with context interpretation were the output of the consultation of the opulently Nanditha et al. (2023). The media coverage consulted, lastly, was the source for creating accurate timelines of measures taken by government, communication with the public, and local people's experiences during the calamity (Dawn, 2022; The Express Tribune, 2022).

The research's analytical framework is based on the Human Security aspects: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security (UNDP, 1994). The analysis was performed in a number of steps that are interconnected. Firstly, all the relevant policies applied during the different phases of emergency response, recovery, and reconstruction were mapped. Secondly, the mapped policies were classified according to the UN Human Security dimensions that they were intended to address. Third, the policies were evaluated based on the following criteria coverage (who the users are), adequacy (whether the needs are being met adequately), timeliness (when was the interventions being performed), and implementation fidelity (what is the difference between what was planned to be done and what was actually done). Fourth, the non-exploration or less attention to the human security aspects was observed as a gap. Fourth, the neglect of or insufficient addressing human security dimensions was identified as a gap. Lastly, the response to the 2022 floods was compared with that of the 2010 floods in order to draw lessons or identify repeated mistakes (PDNA, 2010; PDNA, 2022).

The researchers of the study point out that there were certain limitations. One restriction was the lack of direct access to the data on the ground, which made the evaluators dependent on secondary sources for some parts of the policy assessment. It also has time lags between policy declares and what can be seen, and the continuing nature of the recovery makes it more difficult to measure the long-term results. Another challenge was the language problem particularly in the Urdu or local language paper work.

The limitations were there, but still the documentation available was considered good enough for a systematic and strong policy analysis. The diversity of sources minimized the chances of bias

and ensured that the findings reflected the population that was targeted by the policy as well as the experiences of the population itself.

In general, this approach makes it possible to carry out a thorough and evidence-based evaluation of the ways in which the different policies of Pakistan tackled or neglected the multiple human security needs of the displaced populations thereby giving the insights that are useful in the areas of future disaster planning and governance (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Context: Pakistan's 2022 Flood Crisis

The 2022 Pakistan flood is one of the most serious climate-related disasters in the history of the state. In June-August 2022, due to uninterrupted atmospheric rivers, the rain fell 350% above the 30-year average, which culminated in the majority of the damage in Sindh, Balochistan, KP, and Punjab (Nanditha et al., 2023). The highest flooding was experienced in September 2022 when nearly a third of the nation flooded. In some places, floodwater stayed for months, thus increasing the difficulty of the human and economic burden (World Bank, 2022).

Climate change perspective of the 2022 floods was not only an indicator of extreme climate, but also the influence of global warming in the area. The higher temperatures are melting glaciers faster in the northern area which is one of the causes for GLOFs, while changing rainfall patterns have increased monsoon rain (IPCC, 2023). These alterations in the water cycle are being linked to the anthropogenic climate change, and researchers are beginning to focus on the fact that Pakistan is the most impacted country despite contributing 0.3% of the total global emissions (Nanditha et al., 2023). The physical destruction was horrific: 177 check dams in Balochistan collapsed, river dikes broke, and millions of hectares of farmland were covered with water making it impossible for the country to survive economically (NDMA, 2022).

The human casualties were incredible. The floods brought about 1,739 deaths of which 647 were children and 333 were women, while thousands were injured (UN OCHA, 2022). About 33 million individuals were impacted, 8 million of which were internally displaced for an average of 74 days; some of these families lived in temporary shelters for up to seven months (World Bank, 2022).

Counting the immense damage done to the infrastructure, a total of more than 2.2 million houses, 13,115 km of roadways, 439 bridges, 13,000 schools, and 1,500 health centres were either damaged or entirely destroyed (Simpson et al., 2023). To make things worse, the agricultural industry suffered the most among all sectors, as the nation lost 9.4 million acres of cropland and 1.1 million livestock, aggravating the situation of total economic damages worth USD 14.9 billion and losses amounting to USD 15.2 billion, which reflected a 2.2% reduction in the national GDP (World Bank, 2022; PDNA, 2022).

The social and geographic vulnerability was not the same in every province. The province of Sindh which was the most affected one by flood disasters suffered the highest economic losses of 70% and these losses were mainly due to the whole districts being underwater for about three months. Balochistan was still in such a bad state that it could not even provide relief to its remote areas due to the collapse of communication infrastructure. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, northern flash floods plus river inundation pushed people out of their homes and this situation also displayed a difference among people's geographic location and social resilience (NDMA, 2022). The vulnerable groups were the ones who suffered most of the disaster. The rural poor who are highly dependent on agricultural output went through 95% property damage (Humanitarian outcomes, 2022). Women were put under more restrictions regarding going out, were at risk of getting sick during pregnancy, and were more likely to be subjected to violence because of their

gender in the camps. Kids went through educational disruption, malnourishment, and increased susceptibility to diseases, while disabled persons and elderly people faced great difficulties in accessing relief service.

The disaster management was seriously crippled by the prevailing vulnerabilities. The environmental weaknesses, which were mainly the combination of widespread poverty, poor infrastructure, illegal constructions on floodplains, and deforestation, reduced the natural absorbing power of the land and thus flooding was worsened (Nanditha et al., 2023).

There were also significant factors that curtailed the response and they include governance failures; failure to have proper warning systems, poor city planning, and lack of local preparedness. Besides floods, Pakistan's location and climate, together with the socio-economic factor of reliance on climate-sensitive industries, were reasons why even small floods could cause huge humanitarian crises. Moreover, the 2010 floods marked a total of 20 million people affected and the country had not learnt from the past as the historical lesson of 2010 floods was applied inadequately, thus leading to the repeating of unpreparedness and vulnerability (PDNA, 2010).

The 2022 floods demonstrate that the disaster was not a mere natural calamity but a consequence of the high level of interdependence of climate change, the structural vulnerability, and bad governance. This is an important situation to be considered when considering the efficiency of the policy response by Pakistan because it highlights the many-sided human security issues of the displaced that include the risk to their livelihoods, health, safety, community relations, and political engagement.

Policy Analysis: Aspects of Human Security

The floods in Pakistan that occurred in 2022 had a major impact on the country's population, making it necessary to provide huge relief not only by the government but also by international organizations. New policies and programs were set up immediately after the disaster, including emergency policy measures, cash transfers to victims, and sectoral response plans (Government of Pakistan et al., 2022; OCHA, 2022). The interventions showed a visible commitment to the humanitarian response; however, the scale and intricacy of the displacement demonstrated the huge gap between the policy and the actual conditions of the affected populations. The Human Security Framework is used in this section to scrutinize the response to the floods in Pakistan, to see how far the government and the international community's policies addressed the multidimensional insecurities of the internally displaced persons (IDPs). The analysis will go further to determine not just the fact that the government and administrative actions ensured the security of the displaced individuals economically, food, health, environment, personal, community, and politics, but also the failures and inefficiency of the system at governance.

One of the initial and enduring outcomes of the migrations as the cause of floods proved to be economic instability. The extinction of means of living occurred considerably, as the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment estimated economic losses at more than USD 14.9 billion, mainly in the agriculture, small businesses, and informal labor sectors (Government of Pakistan et al., 2022). In order to make up for the income lost during the displacement, the government declared emergency cash assistance through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and 25,000 PKR were given to each household affected through the Flood Relief Cash Programme, often called the Watan Card mechanism (NDMA, 2022; UNDP Pakistan, 2022). This intervention not only relieved financial pressure in the short term, but also used already established social protection infrastructure, limited in its efficiency due to scale and design. Surveying the field showed that

people receiving a one-time cash transfer were not able to recover their livelihoods, especially for families that had their houses, livestock, agricultural land, and productive assets taken away at one go (PDNA, 2022; Humanitarian Outcomes, 2022). Moreover, payment delays, exclusion mistakes, and documentation issues reduce the anticipated coverage resulting in the fact that a number of displaced households do not obtain the required help in time (IDMC, 2023; OCHA, 2022).

At the same time, support measures targeting farmers such as subsidies on seeds, fertilizer distribution, livestock vaccination campaigns, and loan rescheduling were announced but their implementation was still quite uneven and slow, especially in Sindh and Balochistan where areas with floods were left unproductive for months (FAO & WFP, 2022; Manzoor et al., 2022). Consequently, the policies on economic recovery dealt with the needs of immediate consumption only and did not help in sustainability of livelihoods restoration. Pathways, leaving displaced population economically insecure long after emergency relief ended.

The **food security** interventions were mainly responsible for famine-like conditions prevention, but at the same time, they uncovered the existing structural weaknesses in the disaster response system of Pakistan. The distribution of emergency food was done through a coordinated effort of government agencies including the World Food Programme and humanitarian organizations which provided cooked meals in displacement camps and dry rations to affected households (WFP, 2022; OCHA, 2022). Together with UNICEF and WHO, nutrition-specific interventions were implemented to children and pregnant women; e.g., the malnutrition screening and treatment feeding programmes (UNICEF, 2022; WHO EMRO, 2022). These measures managed to eliminate the immediate hunger risks; however, they did not consider the long-term food security problem which had been already worsened due to the destruction of about 2.5 million hectares of cropland and the death of over 1.1 million livestock (PDNA, 2022). In addition to that, food prices in flood-affected regions increased rapidly due to the interruption of supply chains and the fall in domestic production, thus, the displaced households that depended on the market were the ones most affected (Finance Division, 2022). Furthermore, the agricultural recovery programs were postponed and the distribution of inputs was late for the smallholders aiming to replant their crops on time (Sohail et al., 2023). Thus, even though emergency food assistance had saved people from starving, the policies still did not provide food security that was not closed-off which in turn made those people needing support even more susceptible.

One of the weakest areas in the response of Pakistan towards the flooding was **health security**. The disaster led to the destruction or incapacitation of more than 1,500 medical establishments which hindered the delivery of medical services even more in the already neglected areas (WHO EMRO, 2022). With the help of WHO and international NGOs, the initiative to establish mobile medical units, disease monitoring, and vaccination programs against malaria, measles, and cholera epidemics was also taken by the Ministry of Health (WHO EMRO, 2022; UNDP Pakistan, 2022). However, despite all these actions, the health status of the displaced population went down considerably. The assessments conducted after the floods showed that there was a huge increase in the cases of malaria, dengue, diarrheal diseases, skin infections, and respiratory illnesses, and some areas even reported that the malaria cases were four times as many as before (Raza et al., 2023; Simpson et al., 2025).

The existence of trauma, loss, and long-lasting displacements in the affected areas did not pay much attention to **mental health** needs (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Pregnant women, children, the aged, and people with disabilities were the ones who suffered the most, as they faced the

greatest difficulties in accessing care, especially in the already overcrowded camps with very few referral options (UNFPA et al., 2022). The need to contain the emergency situations has relegated the health response to these conditions to the provision of health security of the displaced communities in the long term.

During the displacement crisis, **environmental security** was extremely compromised and this brought to light a significant policy blind spot. The floodwaters polluted the sources of drinking water, ruined the sanitation infrastructure, and made wide areas of water stagnant which only added to the diseases and environmental hazards that were already there (UNEP, 2022; UNICEF, 2022). Humanitarian actors did carry out the WASH interventions like water purification, latrine construction, and hygiene kit distribution but still, the coverage was not enough when compared to the need (OCHA, 2022). A lot of the displacement camps had too few toilets and they were often more than what the Sphere standards required, and facilities for sanitation that were separated by gender were often not available which negatively impacted the dignity and safety of women (Sphere Association, 2018; Human Rights Watch, 2022). The Environmental remediation and waste management did not get much policy attention at all, even though there were signs of long-term soil salinization, ecosystem degradation, and contamination from both industrial and agricultural chemicals (UNEP, 2022). Absence of a holistic environmental recovery plan implies that there is absence of recognition of environmental security as an essential element of human security and sustainable redemption.

The challenges of **personal security** were very evident and even more so in the displacement camps and slum settlements. As the government and humanitarian organizations set up relief camps and temporary shelters, overcrowding, the use of substandard materials for the shelters, and the lack of security arrangements put the displaced at a greater risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse (UNHCR, 2022; Human Rights Watch, 2022). The situation was even worse for women and girls who experienced not only lack of privacy, poor lighting and unsafe water and sanitation facilities but also all the hardships that came with it (Oxfam, 2022). Displaced children were most exposed to the worst consequences of what the conflict was causing: disruption of education, increased child labor, and the risk of family separation (UNICEF, 2022). At the same time, even though in some locations protection monitoring systems and women-friendly spaces were introduced, their coverage was sporadic and under-resourced thus limiting their overall protective impact (ReliefWeb, 2022). The presence of these gaps suggests an answer that did not take into account protection as a major factor in the process of managing displacement policies.

Community security was greatly affected by the division of social networks as well as the breakdown of collective coping mechanisms. Displacement very often resulted in the separation of families and communities, and taking away the areas of traditional support which were very crucial for resilience and recovery (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). Some attempts were made to keep the communities together in camps and to get the local leaders involved in the process of aid distribution, however, the decisions were still mainly made at the top and the participation of the displaced populations was limited, in particular, it was the women and marginalized groups who were the most affected (IDMC, 2023). The time the people had been displaced pushed community ties further apart, question of whether they would return or not together with the rebuilding turned the social tensions within camps and host communities up (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2022). The lack of community engagement mechanisms which were structured showed the inability of the system to recognize people who were displaced as active agents and not passive recipients of aid.

Political security still ranked among the least considered elements of the flood response. Although the registration and documentation services were established so that people could receive aid, the displaced population had nearly no influence on the issues regarding the camp management, delivery of support, and return-planning (NDMA, 2022; IDMC, 2023). Laying out and complaint and grievance mechanisms was one thing, but in practice, they were at times hard to reach, ineffective, and poorly communicated, thus sapping accountability and transparency (OCHA, 2022). The lack of a rights-based approach towards managing displacement was further highlighted by reports of exclusion, corruption, and arbitrary eviction out of the camps (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Consequently, populations that were displaced underwent political marginalization, which perpetuated the existing inequalities.

The issues of coordination and governance had a strong impact on policy effectiveness in all dimensions. The weak coordination among federal, provincial, and district authorities, together with the strained relations between the government and the humanitarian sectors, resulted in some areas being covered by more than one service while others were left unattended (OCHA, 2022; NDMA, 2022). The international pledges fell far short of the required amount of USD 16.3 billion for recovery and reconstruction and thus, the funding shortfalls contributed to the failures in implementation even more (PDNA, 2022). Although some measures like lessons from the 2010 floods, preparedness and risk reduction still were not integrated into the policy frameworks enough, thus leading to reactive rather than preventive approaches (Mustafa, 2005; Wisner et al., 2004).

To sum up, Pakistan's 2022 flood response albeit delivering the much needed life saving services was an exercise that was inadequate to guarantee complete human security of the displaced individuals. The policies gave precedence to very short-term humanitarian relief that was unconnected with long-term recovery, and the whole human security dimensions were inadequately integrated and the structural weaknesses barely addressed. The changes in policy necessary to shift emergency response to sustainable, inclusive, and just displacement governance are quite difficult without a rights-based, climate-adaptive framework of displacement.

Analytical Discussion:

The floods in Pakistan during 2022 are ranked among the most extreme cases of climate-induced migrations that affected people in history. Although the country has been contributing very little to the emissions of greenhouse gases worldwide, it still was among the first to suffer from climate change that visually showed such inequities in the existing climate governance. This section takes to critically analyzing the human security implications of these floods, their root causes of policy failure, and compares them with the 2010 floods. It also puts the case of Pakistan in the broader context of the rest of the world that focuses on climate justice, governance, and structures of operation.

Climate justice implications: Injustice continues to be a major theme of the global climate system as one of its main actors India has been pointing out through its case. Even after being responsible for less than 1% of the world's CO₂ emissions, India had to endure gigantic losses that directly influenced the lives of more than 33 million people, including 8 million displaced (Government of Pakistan et al., 2022; IDMC, 2023). The promise by international society of giving \$10 billion in aid to recover is indeed not reality; they had managed to give out only 2.8 billion by 2024 (Brookings Institution, 2022). This difference demonstrates concretely the unfulfilled expectations

of the Global North countries concerning their role in providing support to be of high quality, always available, and not late, thus endangering the lives of the poor people in terms of economy, food, and health for a long time (UNDP Pakistan, 2022; World Bank, 2022).

The Loss and Damage Fund that was unveiled at COP27 in November 2022 gave a theoretical idea of how the inequalities could be put right but the slow progression towards its implementation has made the situation of Pakistan to be basically symbolic and not actually addressed (UNFCCC, 2022). The floods are a clear illustration of how systemic discrimination creates social crises out of environmental shocks, as Pakistan has to take loans for rebuilding the country, thereby getting trapped in the debt-for-disaster cycle (Mustafa, 2005; Akhtar & Khan, 2012). The most national policies are not able to resolve the issue of such structural financial constraints, and, therefore, the necessity of international taking responsibility in climate adaptation and human security emerges.

Root Causes of Policy Failure: The emergency response analysis of 2022 reveals numerous layers of the policy failures. The structural weaknesses that comprised the human security effects of floods included widespread poverty, institutional deficiency, political instability, and economic crisis (Khan et al., 2021; NDMA, 2022). Governances predominantly classified the floods as "natural disasters," thus neglecting the role of climate change in causing the floods. Consequently, the actions taken were reactive and did not involve climactic adapting or risk minimization measures (Barnett & Adger, 2007; Gemenne, 2011).

Internal displacement is still a poorly defined concept in the governance framework. In Pakistan, there is no law that ensures the protection and rights of internally displaced persons, and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were not operationalized (IDMC, 2023; UNHCR, 2022).

So far, international mechanisms for climate-induced displacement are also unsatisfactory, thus creating an important policy vacuum (Gemenne, Zickgraf, & Ionesco, 2016; McAdam, 2012).

Factors of the political economy have also played a role in the ineffectiveness of the solution. The resources, graft, and politicization of the priorities of the areas of relief led to a decrease in the fairness of the aid distribution (Human Rights Watch, 2022; Oxfam International, 2022). Knowledge and action gaps could be seen very clearly as the system, that was not ready for even a larger calamity in 2022, implemented none of the lessons from the 2010 floods, mainly those on coordination, reconstruction, and framing of climate risks. (PDNA, 2022).

Comparative Perspective: 2010 vs. 2022: Using a comparative approach, one can say that some challenges are still present while others are new. In 2010, floods affected 20 million people, the international funding was relatively high, and UN-led coordination was stronger (Mustafa, 2005). The systemic vulnerabilities of weak governance, limited adaptive capacity, and poverty however still existed. By 2022, floods affected 33 million people; the government coordination that was supposed to be on paper improved but the reality was that there were still limitations on capacity and funding so it lagged behind (NDMA, 2022; ReliefWeb, 2022).

The crisis of 2022 is also a depiction of the changing climate talks. Compared to 2010, funding, preparedness, and legal mechanisms were not among the topics that facilitated any realistic protection and resilience, giving the debates on climate justice, adaptation, and loss and damage the first place (UNDP Pakistan, 2022; UNFCCC, 2022).

Although it is true that the scale and political context of Pakistan are unique, the issues of human security observed are typical of the whole of the Global South. The regions like Bangladesh, Nepal,

Afghanistan, or small island developing countries are also vulnerable to environmental catastrophes like floods, storms, melting glaciers, or rising oceans, and where poor governance, marginalization of the vulnerable, and a shortage of funding add to the risks (Asian Development Bank, 2022; UNICEF, 2022). The Pakistani situation provides opportunities to learn lessons that are applicable in other places: the human security frameworks are good tools for identifying and measuring multiple impacts; the coordination issues among governments, UN agencies, and NGOs are common; and the short-term humanitarian strategies often take precedence over long-term development and resilience (CARE International, 2023; Humanitarian Outcomes, 2022). They are the most at risk populations that also comprise women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities hence this continuous excessive burden on them, hence the global perspectives on inclusive and rights-based interventions.

The research basically increases knowledge in many aspects. Initially, it puts into practice the human security framework, thereby proving a systematic application with the help of seven dimensions to measure disaster response, thereby going beyond the theoretical discourse (Tadjbakhsh, 2005; Paris, 2001). It further integrates disaster studies, policy analysis, and climate justice thereby providing a holistic, replicable methodology for other climate-displacement contexts which is a good way of interdisciplinary collaboration. It further clarifies the certain mechanisms of policy failure by pointing out the structural, institutional, and financial constraints which are the causes of human security being denied to the people in the times of crisis. It also argues the case for the need to reframe the issue of climate-induced displacement as a security imperative instead of a mere state-centric paradigm wise issue challenging and giving attention to the multidimensional vulnerabilities instead. Finally, the study serves as a foundation of evidence for climate justice advocacy, showing the global inequitable systems that exist are the reason for real costs to vulnerable populations.

Implications to Governance: The floods in Pakistan are a wake-up call for the climate displacement governance paradigm shift. The existing disaster management models, which were initially created to address a few isolated incidents, cannot be used to tackle routine, protracted climate risks (Adger et al., 2014; McLeman, 2018). Relying on the national capacities will not be enough; the global governance, the predictable financing, and the legal mechanisms for the displaced populations will be mandatory. The responses will have to be made according to the concept of human security pointing out the economic, health, food, personal, community, environmental, and political dimensions in a rights-based, dignity centered way.

However, proactive investment in adaptation and resilience, not reactive relief, is still at the forefront of the debate and the resource-constrained states like Pakistan need the support of the international community. Climate justice is not a type of charity but an act of moral and legal duty that is ascertained by providing accessible, adequate, and predictable financing that ensures that the vulnerable will no longer bear the burden of emissions they did not create (Roberts and parks, 2007; Waqas, 2022).

Consequently, Pakistan's situation has drawn attention to the need for proper policy design and practical implementation in the Global South.

Conclusion:

The floods in Pakistan in 2022 ranked among the most severe climate-related disasters in the current period, with more than eight million people forced to leave their homes and a total of 33 million people affected (Government of Pakistan et al., 2022; NDMA, 2022). The scale of

destruction included all aspects of human security--economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political. The Pakistan government response was, however, commendable in terms of mobilization and scope but mostly offered short-term emergency relief which failed to address the interconnected and multidimensional nature of human insecurity (UNDP Pakistan, 2022).

Emergency cash support to the affected people like the Watan Card program helped people to cope with their financial difficulties, however, delays in payment, errors in identifying beneficiaries, and paying in one installment left most of the people in the financially insecure group months after the emergency caused (Finance Division, 2022; Manzoor et al., 2022). The programs on food distribution and nutrition programs managed to save people on the verge of starvation, yet the losses on agriculture, irrigation damage, and inflation were all factors in the overall undermining of food security in the long-term (WFP, 2022; Younas et al., 2024). Mobile clinics, vaccination, and disease surveillance minimized the risk of an epidemic, and health activities were among the areas where support was insufficient (WHO EMRO, 2022; Raza et al., 2023). Policymaking shortcomings because of environmental security were mindblowing since, even the most basic environmental issues like water contamination and ecosystem destruction were evident (UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO reports, 2022; CARE International, 2023).

The overcrowded camps made social and personal security precarious while the groups most affected by such negative conditions were women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, who suffered the most from harassment, exploitation, and the loss of dignity (Oxfam, 2022; Human Rights Watch, 2022). The communities fractured since the displaced people were cut off from their social networks and were also very little involved in the decision-making regarding relief (UNDP, 2022). The displaced persons politically were practically voiceless in terms of governance, the supporting complaint mechanisms being weak and the aid distribution processes being opaque which made their marginalization worse (NDMA, 2022; ReliefWeb, 2022).

In sum, Pakistan's response not only kept people's lives but also lessened the impact of the disaster but did not deliver the human security in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. The structural challenges mentioned earlier, such as poverty, weak institutions, political instability, and lack of international funding, were barriers to effective policy implementation. These issues also highlighted that operational gaps were made worse by the systemic vulnerabilities aggravated by climate injustice (Waqas, 2022; UNFCCC, 2022).

Recommendations:

Following the human security model and the lessons that have been learned during the 2022 floods in Pakistan, a compilation of combined, and practical policy recommendations is made. The suggestions focus on short-term alleviation, mid-term recuperation, prolonged structural adjustment, and global initiative with the emphasis on the duties of both the national and global climate justice responsibilities.

Short-term intervention and rescue(1-2years): The legal framework for IDPs should be created and enacted to align with the UN's Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which would be the first step. The protection standards along with the rights of the displaced persons and state obligations will be defined in this new law bringing about a new situation of accountability and coordinated relief (IDMC, 2023; UNDP, 1994).

A national climate displacement fund that is a combination of pre-allocated budget resources and international contributions is necessary at the same time to ensure predictable financing. It would be possible with this fund to mobilize emergency aid, cash transfer, and necessary services fast in flood affected areas (Brookings Institution, 2022; UNDP Pakistan, 2022).

The enhanced meteorological infrastructure, SMS alerts in local languages, and community-level focal points can significantly reduce the risk of evacuation coming too late and of people getting displaced (Kam et al., 2025; OCHA, 2022). Periodic drills, keeping an updated record of the at-risk population, and developing coordination protocols for NDMA-PDMA are essential to minimizing the delays in operations (Humanitarian Outcomes, 2022; ReliefWeb, 2022).

Medium-Term Recovery and Resilience (2-5 years): All seven human security dimensions must be clearly included in disaster management through policies. Economic rehabilitation programs will be cash transfers, livelihood support and access to credit. Women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities will be given precedence (BISP reports; Manzoor et al., 2022).

The reconstruction of the affected areas is to be done according to the "build back better" concept, consisting mainly of resilient housing against floods, better drainage systems, and nature-based adaptation approaches such as wetlands creating and planting of mangroves (Hallegatte et al., 2016; Mustafa, 2005). They should be adaptive social protection systems with their pre-vulnerable households registered to receive a quick response, ensure that the support is uninterrupted, and that cycles of dependence are reduced (UNDP Pakistan, 2022).

Gender-responsive displacement protocols should ensure the women involvement in managing the camps, safe, non-violent WASH facilities, protection against GBV, and engagement in economic empowerment initiatives hence addressing the long injustices that have been exacerbated by the crises (Oxfam, 2022; Human Rights Watch, 2022).

The strategies to reduce the risk of disasters at the community level (establishing local committees, integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary practices, and regulating contingency funds) may enhance the social cohesion and make culturally sensitive interventions (CARE International, 2023; UNICEF, 2022).

Long-Term Structural Reforms (5-10 years): A comprehensive national climate adaptation strategy, including sector-wide risk assessments, managed migration approaches, and ecosystem-based adaptation methods as the main tools to bring down the future vulnerabilities, is called for (Roberts & Parks, 2007; Schlosberg & Collins, 2014). Urban planning reforms need to put into practice the zoning of floodplains, the migration from high-risk zones should be supported, and the availability of housing, which is both cheap and strong against disasters, should be assured (Akhtar & Khan, 2012; Mustafa, 2005).

These investments that can protect the populations against future disasters are not only climate-resilient infrastructures; they are also investments that will enable the creation of sustainable livelihoods (Manzoor et al., 2022; Hallegatte et al., 2016).

International Cooperation and Climate Justice: Pakistan should not only be a participant but a leader in the process of making the COP27 Loss and Damage Fund operational, estimating losses and damages, forming alliances with the least developed countries, and pushing for grants as the only source of finance (UNFCCC, 2022; Waqas, 2022). Implementation of cooperative measures via SAARC can also help to develop a sound early warning system across borders, take advantage of shared resources, and establish coordinated plans for displacement (UNDP Pakistan, 2022). International Cooperation and Climate Justice

A shift in the international humanitarian assistance regime that migrants caused by climate are not to be classified as a disaster, but rather a category of other disasters, will not only ensure the provision of subsistence over more than a year on a rights-based basis, but will also make vulnerable populations unable to be marginalized once again (Humanitarian Advisory Group, 2025).

Research Implications: Demographers should follow the population of displaced persons over time, ecologists should take a comparative view of the application of human security frameworks to different climate disasters, and political scientists should conduct research on the reasons for the failure of policies despite the presence of strong frameworks (Tadjbakhsh, 2005). Discussion on these differences in lurking and emerging vulnerabilities will lead to more just and equitable policy designing.

The floods in 2022 taught the lesson that emergency assistance is not sufficient to save the dignity, health, and livelihood of the displaced populations. The situation in Pakistan attracts attention to the highly acute need in the holistic approaches to disaster policies, which are rooted in the concept of human security, supported by powerful national capabilities and international justice. Unless there is a proactive adaptation, resilient infrastructure and rights-based structures, the future floods will not be just a disaster but also a follow-up of the displacement, vulnerability, and injustice cycles.

The circumstances are dramatic: It is high time to make the innovative, long-range step, before the next disaster strikes.

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